

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A surgical stapling device comprising:

- a handle assembly including a body having a top surface and a firing trigger;
- a body portion extending distally from the handle assembly;
- a head portion including an anvil assembly and a shell assembly, the anvil assembly being movable in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions; and
- an indicator positioned on the handle assembly and having a bulbous shape, the indicator being movable from a first position to a second position in response to movement of the anvil assembly and the ~~cartridge~~ shell assembly to the approximated position to provide a visual indication to a surgeon that the head portion is in the approximated position, the bulbous indicator extending outwardly from a top surface of the body such that the bulbous indicator is viewable from above and opposite sides of the device.

Claim 2 (Original): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 1, further including a lens positioned to at least partially cover the indicator, the lens being formed from a magnification material.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 1, further including an approximation mechanism positioned within the handle assembly and extending at least partially through the body portion, the approximation mechanism having a distal end adapted to engage the anvil assembly, the approximation mechanism being movable within the

device to move the anvil assembly between the spaced position and the approximated position in relation to the shell assembly.

Claim 4 (Original): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 3, wherein the approximation mechanism is operably associated with the indicator such that movement of the approximation mechanism effects movement of the indicator.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 4, further including a slide member operably associated with the indicator and movable within the handle assembly, the slide member being movable from an advanced position to a retracted position to move the indicator from the first position to the second position.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): ~~A surgical stapling device according to Claim 5; A~~
surgical stapling device comprising:

a handle assembly including a firing trigger;

a body portion extending distally from the handle assembly;

a head portion including an anvil assembly and a shell assembly, the anvil assembly being movable in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions;

an indicator positioned on the handle assembly and having a bulbous shape, the indicator being movable from a first position to a second position in response to movement of the anvil assembly and the shell assembly to the approximated position to provide a visual indication to a surgeon that the head portion is in the approximated position;

an approximation mechanism positioned within the handle assembly and extending at least partially through the body portion, the approximation mechanism having a distal end adapted to engage the anvil assembly, the approximation mechanism being movable within the

device to move the anvil assembly between the spaced position and the approximated position in relation to the shell assembly;

wherein the approximation mechanism is operably associated with the indicator such that movement of the approximation mechanism effects movement of the indicator; and

a slide member operably associated with the indicator and movable within the handle assembly, the slide member being movable from an advanced position to a retracted position to move the indicator from the first position to the second position;

wherein the slide member is urged to its advanced position by a biasing member.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): ~~A surgical stapling device according to Claim 5, A~~
surgical stapling device comprising:

a handle assembly including a firing trigger;

a body portion extending distally from the handle assembly;

a head portion including an anvil assembly and a shell assembly, the anvil assembly being movable in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions;

an indicator positioned on the handle assembly and having a bulbous shape, the indicator being movable from a first position to a second position in response to movement of the anvil assembly and the shell assembly to the approximated position to provide a visual indication to a surgeon that the head portion is in the approximated position;

an approximation mechanism positioned within the handle assembly and extending at least partially through the body portion, the approximation mechanism having a distal end adapted to engage the anvil assembly, the approximation mechanism being movable within the device to move the anvil assembly between the spaced position and the approximated position in

relation to the shell assembly;

wherein the approximation mechanism is operably associated with the indicator such that movement of the approximation mechanism effects movement of the indicator;

a slide member operably associated with the indicator and movable within the handle assembly, the slide member being movable from an advanced position to a retracted position to move the indicator from the first position to the second position; and

wherein the approximation mechanism includes a screw member which is linearly movable within the handle assembly, the screw member having an abutment member supported thereon, the abutment member being movable with the screw member into engagement with the slide member to move the slide member from its advanced position to its retracted position to move the indicator from its first position to its second position.

Claim 8 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 7, wherein the slide member includes an elongated slot formed therein, the abutment member being movable within the elongated slot into engagement with a proximal end of the slot to move the slide member from its advanced position to its retracted position.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 1, wherein the indicator is pivotally supported within the handle assembly.

Claim 10 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 8, wherein the indicator includes a pair of projections and the slide member includes an upturned lip portion positioned between the pair of projections, the slide member upturned lip portion being movable into engagement with one of the pair of projections to move the indicator from its first position to its second position and movable into engagement with the other of the pair of

projections to move the indicator from its second position to its first position.

Claim 11 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 10, wherein the indicator is pivotally supported within the handle assembly.

Claim 12 (Previously amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 1, wherein the shell assembly supports an annular array of staples.

Claims 13-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A surgical stapling device comprising:
a handle assembly including a firing trigger;
a body portion extending distally from the handle assembly;
a head portion including an anvil assembly and a shell assembly, the anvil assembly being movable in relation to the shell assembly between spaced and approximated positions; ~~and~~
an indicator positioned on the handle assembly and having a bulbous shape, the indicator being movable from a first position to a second position in response to movement of the anvil assembly and the shell assembly to the approximated position to provide a visual indication to a surgeon that the head portion is in the approximated position[.];

a slide member operably associated with the indicator and movable within the handle assembly, the slide member being movable from an advanced position to a retracted position to move the indicator from the first position to the second position; and

a biasing member urging the sliding member to the advanced position.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A surgical stapling device according to Claim [[1]] 21 further including a lens positioned to at least partially cover the indicator, the lens being formed from a magnification material.

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Claim 23 (Previously presented): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 22, wherein in the second position the indicator extends beyond a top surface of the handle assembly.

Claims 24-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 21, further comprising a pivot member, the indicator pivotally supported by the pivot member.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 21, wherein movement of the anvil to the approximated position pivots the indicator in a counterclockwise direction.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A surgical stapling device according to Claim 21, wherein the indicator has a dome shaped outer surface.